

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Shayla Shrieves
(614) 645-5095

Mayor Says, Let the Markets Begin!

Columbus: The grand opening of the **Pearl Alley Farmers' Market** and the **Lynn Alley Market** will take place June 1 at 11 a.m. Columbus **Mayor Michael Coleman** will officially open the markets followed by a traditional African drum herald by musician Tony West. Join us for the grand opening, at the intersection of Lynn and Pearl alleys Downtown (near the Rhodes Tower).

From June 1 on, both markets will be open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. until late October. This is the 12th year of the farmers' market. Lobby signs in downtown buildings will announce what farm-grown products will be available each week. The farmers are members of the Pearl Alley Growers' Association. They are a certified farmers' market, meaning they have grown all the products they sell.

Lynn Alley Market is a team effort between Capital Crossroads and the Economic and Community Development Institute, a recent offshoot of Jewish Family Services. Twenty-five merchants will set up tents in Lynn Alley and sell convenience and handmade goods, arts, crafts and other items.

Editor's Note: Interesting stories abound from the merchants selling products at Lynn Alley Market. We've got Mira Axelrud from Cool Mart Inc. selling Russian pastries, bread and teas. There's Michael Itoka of Itoka Enterprises selling West African shea butter products, drums, instruments and jewelry. Don't forget Lambertus Van Boekel of Art is in the Heart, with a flair for paintings from West Africa and Italy; and Ana Costello of Tzintzun Trading who will sell Mexican folk art and jewelry-just to name a few. Please call Shayla Shrieves at Capital Crossroads to be connected with these fascinating people who add more diversity to downtown's retail climate.